

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-12. (cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A system for screening off an area, comprising a partition element substantially covering a space between two upstanding carrier elements, the partition element being ~~catchable in~~ connected to the carrier elements in an unstable preparatory position in which preparatory position the partition element is unable to remain unaided, and from which preparatory position the partition element is ~~movable~~ pivotable to a fixedly locked position relative to the carrier elements, wherein the partition element includes ~~locking means~~ a lock, each ~~locking means~~ lock comprising a guide section for interlocking engagement with a recess in a respective carrier element of the carrier elements, the guide section being receivable in the recess in a direction of pivoting of the partition element, and each ~~locking means~~ lock comprising a snap catch for retaining the guide section relative to the carrier element and the partition element in the fixedly locked position relative to the carrier elements, the snap catch being depressable during insertion of the guide section in the recess and the snap catch being retractable in the ~~locking means~~ lock by a specially adapted tool, and the snap catch being retractable by ~~an excenter~~ a sleeve with a vane on rotating the sleeve with the tool ~~excenter~~.

14. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the partition element includes two pins which are ~~catchable~~ disposed in a groove in each respective carrier element or vice versa, in the preparatory position.

15. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in Claim 14, wherein the groove is undercut and the associated pin displays a complementary configuration.

16. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in Claim 14, wherein the groove inclines obliquely downwards so that the pins are retained therein in the fixedly locked position in the carrier elements.

17. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the groove is undercut and the associated pin displays a complementary configuration.

18. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the depth of the groove is greater than the diameter of the pins, so that these are ~~reliably~~ retained in each respective groove in the fixedly locked position.

19. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the snap catch includes a spring element which is actuatable by an actuator device for releasing the ~~locking means~~ lock.

20. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in Claim 19, wherein the actuator device is disposed substantially inside the ~~locking means~~ lock.

21. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in Claim 19, wherein the actuator device is disposed substantially outside the ~~locking means~~ lock.

22. (Previously Presented) The system as claimed in Claim 21, wherein the actuator device is disposed in the carrier element.

23. (Currently Amended) A method for mounting a partition element on two upstanding carrier elements, comprising

hooking the partition element in the carrier elements in a temporary, unstable preparatory position,

moving the partition element to a stable, mounted position relative to the carrier elements,

locking the partition element in the mounted position by depressing a snap catch on each side of the partition element while moving the partition element to the mounted position so that the snap catch is received in a recess in a direction of movement of the partition element to the mounted position and so that the snap catch springs out into a locking position for fixedly locking the partition element relative to the carrier elements when in the mounted position, and retracting each snap catch by operating an actuator element to permit removal of the partition element from the carrier elements.

24. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 23, wherein an actuator device is operated by a special, separate tool.

25. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 23, wherein the partition element is locked relative to the carrier elements by pressing the partition element against the carrier elements.

26. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 25, wherein an actuator device is activated by a special, separate tool for releasing the partition element from the fixedly locked position.

27. (New) A system for screening off an area, comprising:

two upstanding carrier elements;

a partition element substantially covering a space between the two upstanding carrier elements, the partition element being connectable to the carrier elements in an unstable preparatory position in which preparatory position the partition element is unable to remain unaided and from which preparatory position the partition element is movable to a fixedly locked position relative to the carrier elements;

a lock, each lock comprising a guide section for interlocking engagement with a recess and a snap catch movable to an extended position for retaining the guide section in the recess to lock the partition element in the fixedly locked position relative to the carrier elements, the guide section being received in the recess in a direction of movement of the partition element toward the fixedly locked position, the snap catch being movable to a retracted position during insertion of the guide section in the recess, and a rotatable sleeve with a vane being provided to move the

snap catch to the retracted position upon rotation of the sleeve through action of the vane on the snap catch.

28. (New) A system for screening off an area, comprising:

a first and a second upstanding carrier element defining a space therebetween;

a partition element removably connected at first and second sides thereof to the first and second carrier elements, respectively, the partition element being pivotably attachable to the first and second carrier elements by an attachment arrangement and lockable in a fixed position by a lock arrangement, a face of the partition element being parallel to longitudinal directions of the first and second carrier elements when the partition element is in the fixed position;

the attachment arrangement comprising a recess extending in a direction perpendicular to the face of the partition element and a pin, the attachment arrangement permitting pivoting of the partition element relative to the first and second carrier elements about the pin when the lock is in an unlocked condition; and

the lock arrangement being disposed vertically above the attachment arrangement and including a first recessed component and a second non-recessed component receivable in the recessed component in a direction of pivoting of the partition element for locking the partition element in the fixed position when the partition element is pivoted about the pin to the fixed position.

29. (New) The system as set forth in claim 28, wherein the pin extends from the partition element and the recess is provided in the first and second carrier elements.

30. (New) The system as set forth in claim 28, wherein the lock comprises a snap lock.

31. (New) The system as set forth in claim 28, wherein the non-recessed component is provided on the partition element and the recessed component is provided on the first and second carrier elements.